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U.S. Hears of New War Games Near Poland but Is Wary of 'Crying Wolf'

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WASHINGTON, June 4 — Reagan Administration officials expressed concern today over reports that the Soviet Union and some of its allies might be planning another set of Warsaw Pact maneuvers around Poland to intimidate the Poles as their crucial July congress of the Communist Party approaches.

The officials said the indications of possible maneuvers had come from diplomatic and intelligence sources, reporting on conversations with Communist officials in Eastern Europe, not from evidence of any new military activity in the area.

In addition to the talk of maneuvers, Washington has also been told of a possible meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders, ei-

ther later this month or early in July, with the same purpose as the maneuvers — to discourage the Poles from adopting further liberal steps that might widen Poland's independence within the Soviet bloc.

These reports, which could be unfounded rumors or deliberate "false information" to raise tension here and in Poland, have been taken seriously, officials said, because of a strong new Soviet, East German and Czechoslovak press campaign against the Polish leadership.

Hard-Line Group Voices Alarm

This press campaign has been based on extensive press attention to statements coming from a small hard-line Communist Party organization at Katowice, a mining center in southern Poland.

That group has charged that "antisocialist forces" were coming to the fore in Poland and receiving support from "international imperialist circles."

For specialists on Communist affairs, the campaign was reminiscent of the coverage of events in Czechoslovakia in August 1968, before the Soviet-led invasion of that country, when the Soviet press declared that Czechoslovak workers' organizations were accusing anti-Communist forces of a process of taking over the country.

Officials said that the situation was not yet alarming enough for any public expressions of concern from the White House or the State Department.

U.S. Now Wary of 'Crying Wolf'

There is a strong desire, one official said, for the Administration not to appear to be "crying wolf." Last December, the Carter Administration, noting a buildup of Soviet forces around Poland, said that Moscow had completed preparations for intervention.

Two months ago, during Warsaw Pact maneuvers in and around Poland, the Reagan Administration warned that the Soviet Union was preparing for an invasion and that it might be imminent.

Since in both instances the Soviet forces returned to their barracks, officials here have been reluctant to raise the specter of an invasion again in the absence of some clear physical evidence.

Reflecting this caution, a State Department spokesman said today there has been "a period of relative calm" in Poland for the last two months.

"Despite propaganda from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany that seeks to create an opposite impression, the Polish people continue to work together in calm and dignity to solve their problems," he said.

"We remain confident that they can succeed. We will avoid any words or actions that might complicate their efforts and urge others to do likewise."

Earlier this week, John D. Scanlan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, told a foreign policy conference at the State Department that "political intimidation" of the Solidarity labor movement and the Polish Communist Party leadership had been stepped up by the Soviet, East German and Czechoslovak press and broadcasting services.

Mr. Scanlan said that the apparent goal of the campaign was to head off new liberalization moves in Poland and to force a retreat on earlier ones.

He said that President Reagan, in a letter to Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, and that Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., in seven meetings with the Soviet Ambassador, Anatoly F. Dobrynin, had warned of a possible "return to the cold war situation at the very least" if Poland was invaded.

Secretary of State Haig has said the Western allies have agreed on a number of contingencies, such as suspension of trade, if the Russians invade Poland.

In the event of a Soviet drive into Poland, Mr. Scanlan commented, anything would be "fair game" for the West.